(a) whether Government has made any decision on allocation of natural gas produced by Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) to the users in power, petro-chemicals and refinery sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RIL has the capacity to produce at least 65 million cubic meter per day (mmscmd) of gas from its eastern offshore KG D-6 field but is forced to restrict the output under 35 mmscmd for lack of Government identified buyers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to decide issues of commercial utilization of gas produced under NELP in its meeting held on 27.10.2009 has decided to allocate 13.165 mmscmd (million metric standard cubic meters per day) on firm basis and another 12 mmscmd on fallback basis, over and above the 18 mmscmd earmarked earlier, for power sector to ensure the operation of all power plants, including those to be commissioned in 2009-10, at 90% PLF. 10 mmscmd has been allocated on fallback basis to partially meet the requirement of captive power plants. Further, 1.918 mmscmd has been allocated on firm basis to petrochemicals sector for use as feedstock only. 5 mmscmd on firm basis and 6 mmscmd on fallback basis has been allocated to Refineries to partially meet their requirement of natural gas.

(c) and (d) Production from KG D-6 has started from April 1, 2009 and is presently around 44 mmscmd. Out of this production, fertilizers (urea), power, LPG, City Gas Distribution (CGD) and steel sectors are utilizing around 13.5 mmscmd, 24 mmscmd, 2.5 mmscmd, 0.5 mmscmd and 3 mmscmd respectively. Further, the EGoM in its various meetings has taken decisions regarding commercial utilization of KG D-6 gas till 91.611 mmscmd.

CNG as an alternative of petrol

570. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is better alternative of petrol specially in our country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some companies are working on their engines for better performance with CNG; and

(c) what are the steps Government is taking to increase the network of CNG supply in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) CNG, being an environment friendly fuel, is considered to be a better alternative compared to petrol. Using CNG also contributes to reducing the dependence on imported crude oil.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities authorized by Central Government, including Joint Ventures of GAIL, are undertaking activities to expand the CNG network. Further, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is in the process of authorizing entities for undertaking CGD activities in other cities. 834,631 standard cubic metres per day (SCMD) gas has been allocated from KG D-6 to various CGD entities for supply to transport and domestic sectors. The Government proposes to extend supply of CNG to 200 new towns by 2015.

NREGS for small farmers

571. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to implement National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) to meet the needs of the small farmers helping them in cultivation of their agricultural land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) The benefits of works on individual lands as given in para I (iv) of Schedule I of NREG Act have been extended to small and marginal farmers *vide* Notification dated 22.7.2009 as per the following amendment:

"Provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes or below poverty line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of Government of India or that of the small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debit Relief Scheme, 2008."

Houses built under IAY

572. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI MOINUL HUSSAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses built so far under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), State-wise; and

(b) the number of such houses which are having proper sanitation and water facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is being implemented as an independent Scheme *w.e.f.* 1.1.1996. Since then 185.19 lakh houses have been constructed under the Scheme. As per the Scheme guidelines, IAY beneficiaries also have to construct sanitary latrine along with house.